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**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

EDEL MOLINA and MARIA  
HERNANDEZ,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

GMAC MORTGAGE LLC,  
RESIDENTIAL FUNDING  
COMPANY, LLC FKA RESIDENTIAL  
FUNDING CORPORATION, THE  
BANK OF NEW YORK TRUST  
COMPANY N.A., MORTGAGE  
ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION  
SYSTEMS, INC., , JOHN DOES 1-100

Defendants

Case No.: CV-09-

**ORIGINAL COMPLAINT**

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

For their complaint against the Defendants, Plaintiffs hereby allege as follows:

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. Plaintiffs were the victim of various frauds, misrepresentations, and unfair and deceptive practices perpetrated against him by certain of the defendants in connection with the residential mortgage loan taken in connection with

1 the purchase of their primary residence in December 2005. Defendants  
2 failed to make material disclosures regarding the terms of the loans, the true  
3 parties to the loan (the true lender) and the incentives provided to the true  
4 parties and to the detriment of the plaintiffs, the rate of interest, the true  
5 settlement charges, the affordability or suitability of the loan, the  
6 securitization plans for their loan that would result in hidden agreements  
7 affecting the terms and ownership of their Note, and other complex terms of  
8 their mortgage loans. Many of the terms were fraudulently concealed until  
9 just recently.

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14 2. As more specifically set forth below, Plaintiffs seek statutory, compensatory,  
15 and punitive damages against the various defendants, as well as declaratory  
16 and equitable relief, and their reasonable attorneys' fees and costs. Plaintiffs  
17 seek declaratory relief as to what (if any) party, entity or individual or group  
18 thereof is the owner and/or entitled to enforce the original promissory note  
19 executed at the time of the loan closing, and whether the Deed of Trust  
20 secures any obligation of the Plaintiffs.  
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22

23 **PARTIES, JURISDICTION & VENUE**  
24

- 25 3. Plaintiffs Edel Molina and Maria Hernandez are individuals residing in  
26 Maricopa County, Arizona. Plaintiffs are the owner in fee of the subject real  
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1 property, which is located in Maricopa County, Arizona, and is their primary  
2 residence.

3  
4 4. Venue is proper in Maricopa County, Arizona, and the Court has jurisdiction  
5 to hear this matter, as conferred by 15 U.S.C. §1640(3) and 28 U.S.C. 1331,  
6 1337. The Court has authority to issue a declaratory judgment by virtue of  
7 28 U.S.C. §2201. Plaintiffs further plead the pendent jurisdiction of the  
8 Court as to the various related state law causes of action.  
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10  
11 5. Executive Trustee Services, LLC (“Executive”) is named as the Trustee of  
12 the Deed of Trust on the subject property. Executive is incorporated in the  
13 state of California. Executive has been notified of Plaintiffs’ Dispute of the  
14 Debt and Objections to the Trustee Sale via letter dated, June 23, 2009,  
15 USPS Delivery Confirmation 2103 8555 7491 1179 6022, received via  
16 signature June 26, 2009. Executive is not a defendant.  
17  
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19 6. Meritage Mortgage Corporation (“Meritage”) was the subprime mortgage  
20 unit of NetBank, and is now defunct. Meritage represented itself as the  
21 Lender on the closing documents, the Note, and the Deed of Trust, although  
22 in reality, the loan was funded by investors in GMAC and RFC’s  
23 securitization scheme, and subject to GMAC and RFC’s underwriting  
24 guidelines. Meritage is not a defendant.ckckc  
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1 7. Defendant GMAC Mortgage, LLC (“GMAC”) is, a corporation organized  
2 under the laws of the State of Delaware. GMAC is the sub-servicer of the  
3 loan. At all times material hereto, GMAC was a member of the MERS  
4 system described herein and a creator, originator and principal shareholder  
5 of MERS.  
6

7  
8 8. Defendant Residential Funding Company, LLC fka Residential Funding  
9 Corporation is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of  
10 Delaware. RFC is the current master servicer under the securitization  
11 transaction described herein.  
12

13  
14 9. Defendant Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A. is a national association  
15 with a corporate home office in the state of New York. The Bank of New  
16 York Trust Company, N.A. as successor to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. has  
17 been identified as the Trustee for the “owners” of the Plaintiffs’ loan.  
18

19 10. Defendant Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. (“MERS”) is a  
20 corporation organized under the laws of the State of Delaware. MERS is a  
21 corporation that offers electronic registration and tracking services of  
22 mortgages and claims to be beneficiary and/or trustee of the subject note. In  
23 addition, MERS is listed as the “beneficiary” of the Deed of Trust on the  
24 subject property, and purported to Notice the Substitution of Trustee to  
25 Executive, and to order the sale, as “beneficiary” under the Deed of Trust.  
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11. John and Jane Does 1-100, are persons or entities that are unknown to Plaintiffs. Their capacities are unknown. On information and belief, these are unknown individual persons who have invested in the security(ies) that may be the “holders in due course” of the subject note on Plaintiffs’ subject property. Plaintiffs will amend their complaint to allege their true identities, capacities and roles as and when they are ascertained.

### **FACT ALLEGATIONS**

12. Plaintiffs are Cuban Americans who do not speak English very well. Edel Molina is a truck driver. Maria Hernandez is a maintenance worker. Plaintiffs wanted to pursue the American dream and own their own home. They took out a loan to buy the subject property house, commonly known as 8364 West Dahlia Drive, Peoria, AZ 85381, with a legal description of Lot 6 Sweetwater Place Unit II, according to Book 388 of Maps, page 1, records of Maricopa County Arizona. [hereinafter “Subject Property”]. Plaintiffs were not English speakers, nor were they sophisticated real estate buyers, and they reasonably relied on the oral statements of the respective defendants, and each of their employees and/or agents, throughout the financing process.

13. Plaintiffs each filled out a Uniform Residential Loan Application by telephone with Blake Bottle, an employee with the mortgage broker, Allegro

1 Financial. Apparently, plaintiffs qualified for the loan based upon stated  
2 income and credit score alone. Interestingly, a second Uniform Residential  
3 Loan Application was dated November 30, 2005, the day before most of the  
4 closing papers were signed. Clearly, the non-English speaking Plaintiffs  
5 were “helped” with the application by Meritage employees, they were not  
6 provided with a Good Faith Estimate within three days of signing the loan  
7 application, and they were not provided a copy of the application to review  
8 prior to it being submitted to the “lender” for approval.  
9

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12 14. Plaintiffs were qualified for a sub-prime, 2-28, \$290,000 loan, with an  
13 adjustable rate, interest only, negative amortization, and a whopping index  
14 change of 5.875 plus the index (6 month LIBOR) after two years.  
15

16 15. Plaintiffs were not required to provide any income verification to  
17 demonstrate their ability to repay the loan. Plaintiffs’ credit score and the  
18 so-called appraisal of the Subject Property were the only criteria used by  
19 Meritage, and its affiliates to qualify Plaintiffs for the loan that is the subject  
20 of this action, and which was designated for almost immediate securitization  
21 and purchase by the supposed underwriting guidelines set forth by GMAC  
22 and RFC in the Securitization Documents.  
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26 16. Prior to the closing, Plaintiffs were not provided the preliminary disclosures  
27 referred to as the Good Faith Estimate, as required by the Truth in Lending  
28

1 Act pursuant to 12 CFR (Regulation Z) within the deadlines provided by the  
2 Act, and failed to provide the preliminary disclosures required by the Real  
3 Estate Settlement Procedures Act (“RESPA”) pursuant to 24 C.F.R  
4 §§3500.6 and 3500.7  
5

6 17. On December 1, 2005, Plaintiffs signed the closing papers in English, with  
7 no explanation. Plaintiffs were not told and did not realize that they were  
8 paying a higher interest rate so that a yield spread premium would be paid to  
9 the mortgage broker. An undisclosed Yield Spread Premium (“YSP”) is a  
10 per se violation of 12 CFR §226.4(a), §226.17, and 18(d) and (c)(1)(iii). The  
11 YSP raised the interest rate which was completely unknown or approved by  
12 the Plaintiffs as he did not receive the required Good Faith Estimate .  
13  
14 Plaintiffs also did not receive a finalized HUD-1 Settlement Statement, or a  
15 properly dated and executed Notice of Right to Cancel.  
16

17 18. The loan was in the form of a promissory note for \$290,000,<sup>1</sup> secured by a  
18 separate Deed of Trust.  
19

20 19. The Note included an “Adjustable Rate Rider,” whereby the initial interest  
21 rate was set at 6.875% from the Closing Date until January 2008  
22 (hereinafter the “Change Date”). The interest rate would be subject to  
23 change on the first Change Date and then every six months thereafter.  
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27  
28 <sup>1</sup> A true and correct copy of the Promissory Note is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

1 20. Upon each successive Change Date, the adjusted interest rate was calculated  
2 by adding a whopping 5.875 points to the applicable six month London  
3 Interbank Offered Rate (hereinafter "LIBOR"). The Note capped the  
4 adjusted interest at 13.875% and set 6.875% as the floor.  
5

6 21. The Note had an attached Prepayment Addendum that provided that any  
7 prepayment within the first two years of the Note resulted in an advance  
8 penalty payment of a six month's interest.  
9

10 22. The Note also included an Interest Only Addendum providing that their first  
11 120 payments would be interest only payments. Their initial interest only  
12 payment on the First Note would be \$1,661.46 beginning February 1, 2006.  
13 After the Change Date, the payments were predicted to jump to \$2,144.79  
14 for six payments, followed by 30 monthly payments of \$2,507.29, and then  
15 300 payments of \$2,712.28. These predictions were incorrectly based upon  
16 low changes in the LIBOR index, rather than the worst possible scenario.  
17 Even as optimistically predicted, this payment schedule negatively  
18 amortized the Note over the first 60 months of the life of the loan.  
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23 23. The Final Truth in Lending (dated the date of closing and not prior, as  
24 required), differed dramatically from the draft Truth in Lending. The  
25 settlement charges over the life of the loan jumped up by \$248, 124.92. The  
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1 APR jumped from 7.157% to 9.9%. These are significant changes that were  
2 not explained to Plaintiffs.  
3

4 24. There was no notice provided as required by A.R.S. §6-631(B) disclosing  
5 “in close proximity to the consumer’s signature line” that “you may request  
6 the initial disclosures prescribed in the Truth in Lending Act be provided in  
7 Spanish before signing any loan documents.”  
8

9 25. There were numerous other non-disclosed charges and inflations in the  
10 settlement charges that Plaintiffs did not know about or have reason to know  
11 about because GMAC concealed them, until he had their loan papers  
12 audited, and their counsel conducted extensive independent research and  
13 consulted experts. The charges include improperly disclosed yield spread  
14 premiums, processing fees, administrative fees, and broker fees.  
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18 26. The property was appraised for \$350.00 by the lender’s appraiser. (paid by  
19 Plaintiffs). The appraisal was inflated. This value came crashing down in  
20 2008. In addition, Plaintiffs suffered a reduced income and inquired  
21 numerous times about obtaining a loan modification. Ultimately, after  
22 Defendant GMAC induced Plaintiffs to commit substantial time and effort to  
23 the process, GMAC refused to modify their loan, without good reason.  
24 During this entire process, GMAC held itself out as the actual lender, with  
25 the ability to modify the loan, despite its true status of the sub-servicer of the  
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1 loan, without a true stake in ownership of the note, and subject to and bound  
2 by restrictions in contracts between the true lender and the investors in the  
3 mortgage backed securities.  
4

5 27. After the closing, the Deed of Trust<sup>2</sup> was recorded in the Maricopa County  
6 Court Recorder's Office on December 7, 2005, naming the lender as  
7 "Meritage Mortgage" and the beneficiary as Defendant MERS. The  
8 Trustee is designated as the title company, Transnation Title Insurance Co.  
9

10 28. There is a year and a half gap in the recordings. Next appears a Substitution  
11 of Trustee,<sup>3</sup> recorded April 6, 2009, purporting to change the trustee from  
12 Transnation Title Insurance Company to Executive Trustee Services, LLC.  
13 The Substitution is signed by "Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems,  
14 Inc." by "Cindy Sandoval, Assistant Secretary" and is notarized in  
15 California, Los Angeles County by Dee Ortega. Cindy Sandoval and Dee  
16 Ortega are employees of Executive, not MERS.  
17  
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20 29. Also on April 6, 2009, a Notice of Trustee's Sale on the subject property  
21 was recorded. The Notice of Trustee's Sale and the simultaneously filed  
22 Substitution of Trustee have suspicious elements that smack of fraud.  
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26 <sup>2</sup> A true and correct copy of the Deed of Trust as recorded is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

27 <sup>3</sup> A true and correct copy of the Substitution of Trustee as recorded is attached hereto as Exhibit  
28 C.

1 30. The Notice of Trustee's Sale<sup>4</sup> lists MERS as the Beneficiary and Executive  
2 Trustee Services LLC as the Trustee. Interestingly, the claimed signatory  
3 "Marvell L. Carmouche, Limited Signing Officer" for Executive has very  
4 similar handwriting to "Cindy Sandoval, Assistant Secretary" who signed  
5 the simultaneously recorded Substitution of Trustee, purportedly for MERS.  
6 This document is also witnessed by Dee Ortega. in California. Neither  
7 Cindy Sandoval nor Marvell Carmouche display or prove their competency  
8 to sign and bind either company. Nor is there any explanation provided as to  
9 why the so-called MERS executive and the so-called Executive executive  
10 have identical handwriting..  
11

12 31. There is no explanation forthcoming from Defendants as to how and when  
13 the loan was sold to the current holder. The note was securitized from the  
14 beginning, and this material information was withheld from Plaintiffs.  
15 Pursuant to the securitization, a series of transfers and "true sales" were  
16 contemplated. This chain of transfer contradicts the transfers and timing  
17 now disclosed on the public record by GMAC.  
18

19 32. In addition, the note is now governed by contracts and terms between "the  
20 investors" (and the "true lender," an indispensable party who is unnamed  
21 and should be discoverable from the Defendants but whose identity has been  
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28 <sup>4</sup> A true and correct copy of the Notice of Trustee's Sale is attached hereto as Exhibit D.

1 hidden from Plaintiffs, despite Plaintiffs' repeated requests for this material  
2 information regarding the security instrument on their subject property) and  
3 GMAC and RFC, contracts that were undisclosed to Plaintiffs, that  
4 materially affect the security instrument, and that were not agreed to by  
5 Plaintiffs.  
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8 33. GMAC has consistently obfuscated Plaintiffs' numerous requests (via  
9 letters, phone calls, and a QWR sent June 23, 2009 and received by GMAC  
10 on June 26, 2009. In response to Plaintiffs' counsel's second letter  
11 requesting information regarding the holder of the note, on July 10, 1009,  
12 GMAC sent a letter objecting to each and every inquiry as though it were a  
13 discovery request, and providing paltry or no information regarding the  
14 legitimate questions about who owned their note, and who was being paid  
15 for it, and in what amounts.<sup>5</sup>  
16  
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18

19 34. Plaintiffs relied upon the perceived "due diligence" of the apparent "lender"  
20 (the mortgage broker and GMAC and RFC, the loan sponsors and servicer  
21 and master servicer respectively), in executing and accepting the closing  
22 documents. In fact, no "lender" was involved in the closing in the sense of  
23 an entity performing due diligence and evaluation pursuant to national  
24 standards for underwriting<sup>7</sup> and evaluating risk of loaning money in a  
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1 residential loan closing. GMAC, RFC, and MERS were involved in the loan  
 2 from the beginning, but concealed this information from Plaintiffs.  
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#### 4 **GMAC and RFC's Securitization Machine**

5 35. GMAC and RFC were big players in the securitization of mortgages,  
 6 particularly sub-prime mortgages like the Plaintiffs.' In 2001, Mortgage  
 7 Banking reported, "GMAC-RFC expects to do \$22 billion in purchased  
 8 originations this year, *the difference being that it has grown other loan-*  
 9 *type businesses such as asset-backed, subprime lending* and home-equity  
 10 lending."<sup>6</sup> Eric Scholtz, an executive vice president in the Residential  
 11 Capital Group stated "We are still involved in jumbo and alternative-A  
 12 lending, but this has been a place where the GSEs [government-sponsored  
 13 enterprises] have taken bigger bites of the pie."<sup>7</sup>  
 14  
 15 36. According to a 2002 press release, "GMAC-RFC, a wholly owned  
 16 subsidiary of GMAC Financial Services, is a leading private issuer of  
 17 mortgage-backed securities and home equity loan asset-backed securities,  
 18 and the No. 1 warehouse lender in the United States. The company leverages  
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24 <sup>6</sup> MORTGAGE BANKING, *GMAC-RFC's Worldwide Reach*, June 1, 2001 (emphasis added).  
 25

26 <sup>7</sup> *Id.*  
 27  
 28

1 its strengths in securitization, lending and investment to offer a broad  
2 portfolio of innovative capital solutions to businesses in a variety of markets.  
3  
4 In the second quarter of 2002, GMAC-RFC issuance totaled \$7.7 billion,  
5 which included *\$3.0 billion in subprime*; a record \$1.6 billion in alternative  
6 A product; and the first hybrid 5-1 adjustable rate mortgage (ARM)  
7  
8 issuance of \$280 million off its RFMSI shelf. In addition, the company  
9 issued a record \$662 million of program exception product via its RAMP  
10 shelf, which included product primarily comprised of loans whose credit  
11 quality falls outside the guidelines of the company's jumbo, alternative A  
12 and subprime programs.<sup>8</sup>  
13  
14

15 37. In addition, GMAC-RFC led all subprime issuers during the first half of the  
16 2002, with a 12 percent market share. As shown in the table below, the  
17 extremely profitable business of securitizing sub-prime mortgages was one  
18 that GMAC and its sibling subsidiaries began to take on at greater and  
19 greater volume, and with significant billion dollar shares.  
20  
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22 38. Thus, according to industry articles and GMAC's own press releases and  
23 statements, the securitization of sub-prime and Alt-A loans was extremely  
24 profitable for GMAC and RFC. The success of the sub-prime  
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securitizations can be measured by this table of volume<sup>9</sup> posted by Defendants in their 424(b) Prospectuses.

39. The sub-prime boom came crashing down in 2007, with devastating consequences for homeowners. Gretchen Morgenson, in the April 6, 2007 *New York Times*, reported in “Fair Game; Home Loans: A Nightmare Grows Darker,” that “with home foreclosures and mortgage delinquencies soaring, it is becoming clear that the innovative loans that lenders championed . . . are turning the American dream into a nightmare for many borrowers.” Ms. Morgenson quoted Thomas A. Lawler, founder of of *Lawler Economic and Housing Consulting Daily*, that subprime loans, similar to the one in this action, “are designed to make borrowers refinance

1. <sup>9</sup> FIRST LIEN MORTGAGE LOANS

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,					
VOLUME BY AVERAGE NUMBER OF LOANS	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Prime Mortgages(1)	68,077	86,166	55,773	91,631	141,188
Non-Prime Mortgages(2)	136,789	200,446	170,696	173,796	132,069
Total	204,866	286,612	226,469	265,427	273,257
Prime Mortgages(1)	33.23%	30.06%	24.63%	34.52%	51.67%
Non-Prime Mortgages(2)	66.77%	69.94%	75.37%	65.48%	48.33%
Total	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

1 and keep the production mill churning.” Ms. Morgenson summed up the  
2 irony, “[w]hile subprime borrowers try to climb out of the holes that they  
3 fell into, those who sold and packaged the loans are laughing all the way to  
4 the bank. ‘Folks who ran these companies are going to walk away not just  
5 unscathed but extraordinarily well rewarded.’ “(quoting Michael D.  
6 Calhoun, President of the Center for Responsible Lending)  
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9 40. As Senator Dodd, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking,  
10 Housing, and Urban Affairs stated at the March 22, 2007 Committee hearing  
11 on “Mortgage Market Turmoil: Causes and Consequences,” our mortgage  
12 market “appears to have been on steroids in recent years” and further noting:  
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14

15 The subprime market has been dominated in recent years by  
16 Hybrid ARMS, loans with fixed rates for 2 years that adjust upwards  
17 every 6 months thereafter. These adjustments are so steep that many  
18 borrowers cannot afford to make the payments and are forced to  
19 refinance, at great cost, sell the house, or default on the loan. ***No loan  
20 should force a borrower into this kind of devil’s dilemma. These  
21 loans are made on the basis of the [inflated] value of the property,  
22 not the ability of the borrower to repay. This is the fundamental  
23 definition of predatory lending.***

24 (emphasis supplied).

25 41. After playing a prime role in creating the subprime debacle that devastated  
26 the world economy, GMAC lined up to receive federal bailout money of \$5  
27 billion in December 2008, \$7.5 billion in May 2009, and is scheduled to  
28 receive another \$1 billion under the President’s Home Affordable



1 Modification Program (“HAMP”).<sup>10</sup> Yet, GMAC’s dismal track record  
2 shows that it still fails regularly to provide sustainable modifications for the  
3 Americans losing their homes, such as Plaintiffs.  
4

5 **b. Behind the Scenes Securitization of Plaintiffs’ Note**  
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7 42. After Plaintiffs’ signatures were obtained on their promissory note and  
8 deed of trust, on terms that were doomed to failure, unbeknownst to them, a  
9 whole series of transactions were effected to securitize their note, which was  
10 the profitable incentive for making loans that could not be repaid. This  
11 shadow transaction occurred in connection with their loan, was  
12 fundamentally tied to their loan, but it was not disclosed to them, nor were  
13 they a party to it.  
14

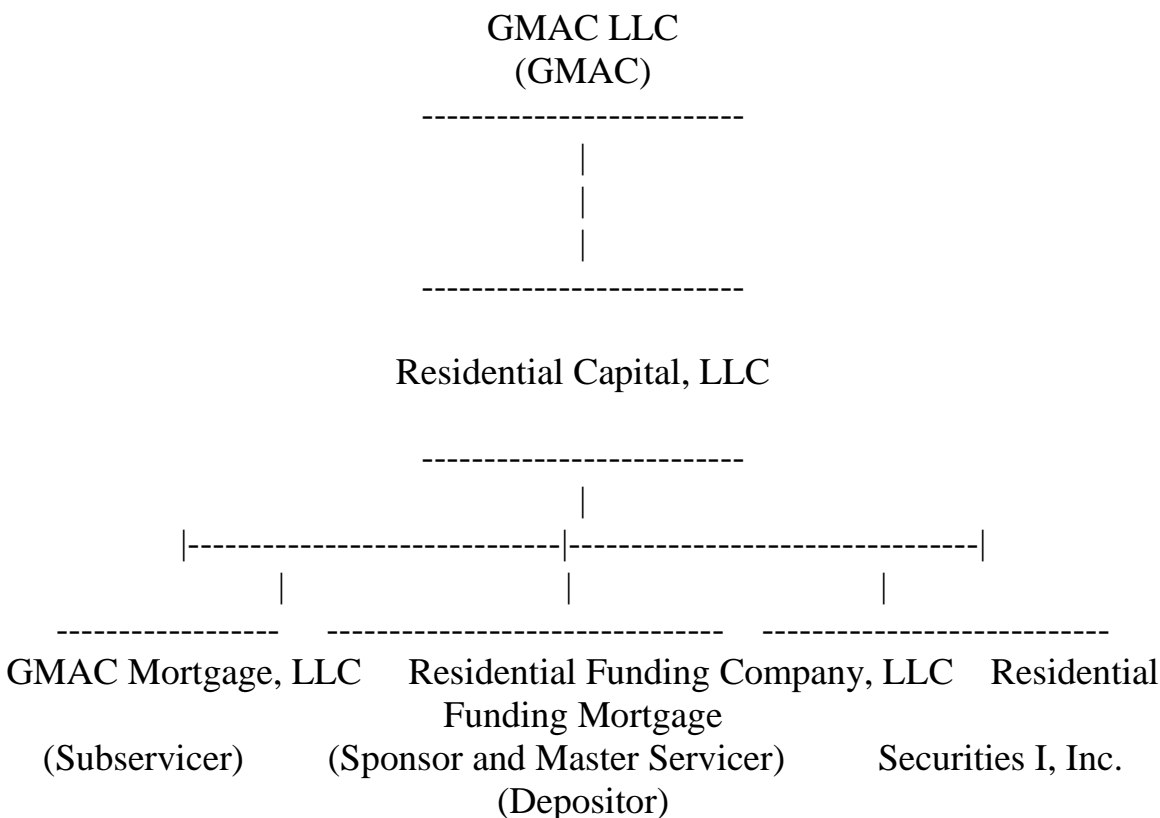
15 43. As discussed above, MERS falsely represented in numerous recorded  
16 documents that it was the beneficiary under the Deed of Trust. The  
17 documents show that MERS was intended to be a “gap” and a “hiding place”  
18 for the disclosure of the true parties in interest to Plaintiffs’ loan.  
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24 <sup>10</sup> WHO’S BEHIND THE FINANCIAL MELTDOWN? THE TOP 25 SUBPRIME LENDERS  
25 AND THEIR WALL STREET BACKERS, *You Broke It, You Fix it? Subprime Players*  
26 *Get Tax Money to Fix Subprime Mess*, (August 25, 2009).  
27 [www.publicintegrity.org](http://www.publicintegrity.org).  
28

44. The securitization documents specify a series of transfers of the Plaintiffs' note (among a pool of other sub-prime loans), but the agreements specify that the public record will only show that the note was transferred to the MERS system. This would allow the member banks to see the transfers, but not the public, clouding the public transparency of the title. In this case, MERS didn't even purport an assignment to the "trustee" but just continued to claim beneficiary status on its own.

45. All of the parties to the securitization were inter-related, affiliates or subsidiaries of one another. The typical GMAC securitization prospectus shows the entities' relationship with the following table:



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46. For the Plaintiffs' loan, GMAC has deigned to disclose (after much urging pursuant to Truth in Lending) that GMAC Mortgage is the sub-servicer, and that RFC is the Sponsor and Master Servicer for the Loan. The current Trustee is alleged to be The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A. as successor to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.

47. The Transaction documents show that a series of sales were purportedly effected, some theoretically designed as "true sales" and not assignments, to avoid tax liability and creditors. These "sales" show an entirely different path than the path of the Deed of Trust as represented to Plaintiffs and to the real estate buying public.

48. First, the "loan seller," sometimes also the originator, sold the pool of mortgage loans to the depositor. Then the Depositor, a special purpose corporation set up to provide bankruptcy-remote status, sold the mortgage assets to the issuing entity in a "true sale." Simultaneous with a trust's purchase of a loan pool from the Depositor, the trust issued bonds or certificates to the Depositor representing ownership interests in the trust. The Depositor had an agreement to sell these securities to the Underwriters, who are investment banks that re-sold the securities to the investors.

1 49. The proceeds of the sale of the certificates to the investors was used to “buy  
2 the notes” for the pool.<sup>11</sup> The proceeds could also be used to pay the  
3 depositor back for buying the assets for the trust, and to pay for credit  
4 enhancements and insurance on the notes. **In other words, the investor’s**  
5 **money funded the borrower’s loans (and paid the handsome fees of the**  
6 **depositor, issuer, seller, sponsor, trustee, etc.).** GMAC did not risk a dime  
7 in its “purchase” of the loans for the pool, nor did RFC, nor MERS. For  
8 each loan included in the pool, GMAC, RFC, and the Trustee made a huge  
9 profit and **did not invest the investor’s full investment into the collateral.**  
10 To clarify, none of the parties attempting to foreclose Plaintiffs’ home, after  
11 sanctioning the origination of a note that was doomed to failure, taking  
12 Plaintiffs’ money each month, and claiming to be applying payments to  
13 someone, have a pecuniary interest in the transaction, or standing to effect a  
14 judicial foreclosure.  
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23 <sup>11</sup> **USE OF PROCEEDS**

24 The net proceeds from the sale of the offered certificates of any series  
25 to the underwriter or the underwriters for any series will be paid to the  
26 depositor. The depositor will use the proceeds to purchase the mortgage loans  
27 included in the trust established for that series or for general corporate  
28 purposes.

424(b) Prospectus for RFMSI 2006-S-3, [www.secinfo.org](http://www.secinfo.org).

50. RFC and GMAC warranted to the investors in the certificates<sup>12</sup> that they had conducted due diligence on the loans and were following national standards for underwriting guidelines but they were not.<sup>13</sup> They also warranted that the loans were in conformity with the federal laws, TILA, RESPA, SCRA, and their ilk. They were not and GMAC knew it.

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<sup>12</sup> **UNDERWRITING STANDARDS**

All of the mortgage loans in the mortgage pool were originated in accordance with the underwriting criteria of Residential Funding described under "*Mortgage Loan Program--Underwriting Standards*" in the related base prospectus. Residential Funding may perform only sample quality assurance reviews to determine whether the mortgage loans in any mortgage pool were underwritten in accordance with applicable standards. See "*Mortgage Loan Program--[Underwriting Standards](#)*" in the related base prospectus.

The applicable underwriting standards include a set of specific criteria by which the underwriting evaluation is made. However, the application of the underwriting standards does not imply that each specific criterion was satisfied individually. Rather, a mortgage loan will be considered to be originated in accordance with the underwriting standards described above if, based on an overall qualitative evaluation, the loan is in substantial compliance with the underwriting standards.

See, e.g., RFCMSI 2006-S3 424(b) Prospectus, [www.secinfo.org](http://www.secinfo.org).

<sup>13</sup> See Interagency Guidance on Nontraditional Mortgage Products, 70 Federal Register, 77249, Dec. 29, 2005 ("[w]e are concerned that these products and practices are being offered to a wider spectrum of borrowers, including subprime borrowers and other who may not otherwise qualify for more traditional mortgage loans or who may not fully understand the associated risks.") The guidance directed banks to tighten their lending practices for non-traditional mortgage products and focused in particular on interest-only mortgages and payment option ARMS. The directive also noted that lenders are increasingly combining these types of products with other high risk practices, such as simultaneous second-lien mortgages and the use of reduced documentation in qualifying home loan borrowers.

1 51. Per the terms of the securitization, The Depositor, the special purpose  
2 corporation and affiliate of GMAC and RFC, was supposed to deliver the  
3 original promissory notes, or cause them to be delivered to the Custodian, on  
4 the date of Closing. This was after the previous “true sales” were supposed  
5 to have been made. Only the Defendants know if this occurred and where  
6 the note is. Plaintiffs have requested this information on numerous  
7 occasions but Defendants have wrongfully withheld it.  
8

9  
10  
11 52. The Securitization Transaction closed by March 30, 2006, a few short  
12 months after the alleged “loan closing.” This process fundamentally  
13 changed the character of their note from negotiable to non-negotiable. It  
14 was securitized in a pool with numerous other notes to provide a “revenue  
15 stream” for investors in an undivided interest, or certificate.  
16

17  
18 53. The note was no longer protected or treated as to its individual terms. It  
19 was no longer for a “sum certain.” It was pooled with an interest in  
20 protecting the “revenue stream” for investors, with no interest in preserving  
21 its individual character for Plaintiffs, as promised in the terms of the Note  
22 which set forth that Plaintiffs’ payments would be applied to their Note.  
23 The note could be substituted out of the pool and replaced with another note.  
24 Payments made on it could be applied across the pool in various ways.  
25 Plaintiffs do not know and Defendants have failed to provide discovery upon  
26  
27  
28

1 their written request for an accounting, as to how the actual payments were  
2 applied by the master servicer, when distributed to the trustee, and  
3 distributed to the investors in the pool.  
4

5 54. Defendants have failed to show competent proof that MERS was a valid  
6 beneficiary, as per the records, at the time of the notice of sale, at the time of  
7 the sale itself, or ever. The evidence is to the contrary, as MERS has  
8 repeatedly testified under penalty of perjury that it does not hold or own  
9 notes, take proceeds, or in any way have a pecuniary interest in the  
10 promissory notes or deeds of trust.  
11  
12

13 55. Because Defendants are not in possession of the original note endorsed to  
14 them, and not otherwise entitled to enforce the note, and Defendants have no  
15 pecuniary or legal interest in the note that secures the deed of trust, there is  
16 no present right to initiate foreclosure under the security instrument nor the  
17 right to direct Trustee to foreclose and sell the subject property owned by  
18 Plaintiffs.  
19  
20  
21

22 56. Defendants and Trustee have each been put on notice of Plaintiffs' claim  
23 that Defendants have no present right to initiate foreclosure and demand has  
24 been made of Defendants to suspend any foreclosure sale unless and until it  
25 has obtained proof that GMAC, RFC, or MERS actually has in its  
26 possession the original note properly endorsed to it or assigned to it,  
27  
28

1 pursuant to the time deadlines as disclosed to the SEC and the IRS for the  
2 “true sales” and transfers of the note. Defendants have failed and refused to  
3 suspend the sale of the property or to provide proof of the basis of the right  
4 of QLS, GMAC or MERS to initiate foreclosure under the security  
5 instrument.  
6  
7

8 57. Plaintiffs alleges that the Defendants, in so acting in this case and with  
9 respect to many other mortgage or trust deed security instruments engage in  
10 a pattern and practice of utilizing the non-judicial foreclosure procedures of  
11 this State to foreclose on properties when they do not, in fact, have the right  
12 to do so, knowing that the property owners affected do not have the  
13 knowledge and means to contest the right of Defendants to do so.  
14  
15

16 58. Plaintiffs, through their attorney, has repeatedly demanded proof from the  
17 Defendants of their right to proceed in foreclosure. No such proof has been  
18 provided.  
19

20 59. Plaintiffs, through their attorney, has further demanded a detailed  
21 accounting of how the stated amount necessary to be paid to redeem the  
22 property from foreclosure has been calculated so that Plaintiffs could  
23 adequately evaluate their rights under the law with a presale right of  
24 redemption. The response of Defendants has been so inadequate so as to  
25 prevent Plaintiffs from determining whether any or all of the charges  
26  
27  
28



1 included in their payoff demand are justified, appropriate, and proper under  
2 the terms of obligation evidenced by the negotiable instrument secured by  
3 the security instrument.  
4

5 60. In all of the wrongful acts alleged in this complaint, Defendants have  
6 utilized the United States mail in furtherance of their conspiracy to both  
7 unlawfully collect on negotiable instruments when they were not entitled to  
8 do so under the law. Assuming, *arguendo*, that they do have the right to  
9 proceed to foreclose under the Note, to profit from those actions in amounts  
10 greater than their rights under the Note to do so.  
11  
12

13 61. Defendants, in committing the acts alleged in this and other cases, are  
14 engaging in a pattern of unlawful activity.  
15

16 62. As a result thereof, Plaintiffs has been damaged in having to hire attorneys  
17 before bringing this action and to bring this action to enjoin the threatened  
18 non-judicial foreclosure of the subject real property. Plaintiffs had to and  
19 will have to incur attorneys' fees to stop the wrongful acts of the  
20 Defendants. Plaintiffs has been damaged in other ways that are not readily  
21 apparent at this time, but will amend this complaint to allege further  
22 damages as they are determined.  
23  
24  
25

26 63. In pursuing non-judicial foreclosure, Defendants have represented that they  
27 have the right to payment under the Note, payment of which is secured by  
28

the security instrument. The true facts are that these Defendants are not entitled to enforce the note, not in possession of the Note and they are not either holders of the Note or non-holders of the Note entitled to payment, as those terms are used in the Uniform Commercial Code, codified in Arizona at A.R.S. §47-3101, *et. al.*, and therefore they are proceeding to foreclose non-judicially without right under the law.

64. Upon further information and belief, Defendants have added costs and charges to the payoff amount of the Note that are not justified and proper under the terms of the Note or the law.

**CAUSES OF ACTION  
COUNT ONE**

**NOTICE OF SALE AND ATTEMPTED FORECLOSURE VIOLATED**  
**ARS §33-801, ET. AL AND ARS §47-3301, ET AL**  
**(AS TO ALL DEFENDANTS)**

1. Plaintiffs incorporate each of the allegations set forth in the foregoing paragraphs by this reference as it fully set forth verbatim in this Count.
2. Defendants GMAC and MERS, through a Joint Venture, set forth in detail in the Fact Allegations, and referred to as the Transaction, sought to wrongfully foreclose on Plaintiffs' property. In doing so, the defendants effected a series of false recordings, fraudulent transfers, and improper notarizations. At no time did Defendants fulfill their burden, as the foreclosing parties, of showing that

1 they were proper parties authorized to enforce the terms of the Deed of Trust  
2 and the Note. Under the Uniform Commercial Code, as codified at A.R.S.  
3 §47-3101, *et. seq.*, a promissory note is a negotiable instrument. Under the law  
4 of negotiable instruments in Arizona, Defendants must be in possession of the  
5 original Note in order to foreclose on the subject property, or demonstrate that it  
6 is **otherwise entitled to enforce the Note.**  
7

- 8
- 9 3. Defendants have pooled and sold the note, destroying its “negotiability” making  
10 the note subject to all defenses, including payment and satisfaction. The note is  
11 no longer for a “sum certain.” Plaintiffs’ payments have been applied to other  
12 notes and other notes’ payments have been applied to their, all to protect a  
13 revenue stream for investors. This transaction did not include Plaintiffs and  
14 was not disclosed to them, yet it materially changed the terms of their note.  
15
- 16 4. Through the conduct described in this Complaint, Defendants attempted to  
17 collect on a debt to which they were not legally entitled as they were not in  
18 possession of the original Note, were not otherwise entitled to enforce the Note,  
19 were fraudulently concealing the true holder in due course of the Note, and did  
20 not have a pecuniary interest in the payments applied to the Note.  
21
- 22 5. Defendants, in taking the actions aforementioned, have violated provision of the  
23 Uniform Commercial Code as codified at A.R.S. §47-3101, *et. seq.*, by  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

ordering, allowing, and holding an illegal foreclosure sale on the subject property.

6. The purported foreclosure sale did not conform to procedure or substance for conducting a lawful non-judicial foreclosure pursuant to the Arizona Deed of Trust Statutes, ARS §§33-801 *et al*
7. The deed of trust indicated that the Lender is Meritage Mortgage, the mortgage broker, but the securitization documents filed with the SEC show otherwise.
8. MERS was named as the beneficiary in the original Deed of Trust. MERS was not a valid beneficiary and was named as a disguise for unrecorded transfers of the note as evidenced by the Securitization Documents discussed elsewhere.
9. The Notice of Trustee's Sale wrongly represented that MERS was the proper beneficiary under the Deed of Trust. A Substitution of Trustee was invalidly executed by invalid beneficiary, MERS.
10. The deed of trust statutes contemplate that a beneficiary<sup>14</sup> under a deed of trust is a true party in interest, with the rights of a stakeholder. Arizona law regarding non-judicial foreclosure does not contemplate that the "beneficiary"

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<sup>14</sup> ARS §33-801(1) defines a "beneficiary" as "the person named or otherwise designated in a trust deed as the person for whose benefit a trust deed is given, or the person's successor in interest." In later portions of the statute, by the context, it is understood that the beneficiary is intended to be an entity that has a pecuniary interest in the property, i.e. the true lender of the money, or some other entity with a pecuniary interest in the subject property. *See* §33-804 (beneficiary can appoint trustee); §33-804A (beneficiary may file an action to foreclose a deed of trust; §33-807 B (beneficiary is the proper and complete party Plaintiffs in an action to foreclose a deed of trust).

1 of the deed of trust is a computer database. MERS has sworn under penalty of  
2 perjury that it does not originate loans or hold title to anything. Arizona law  
3 governing non-judicial foreclosure does not contemplate or condone  
4 simultaneous beneficiaries, or hidden transfers supposedly rectified at the last  
5 minute by recordings with invalid notarizations by parties who have the title of  
6 “Assistant Secretary” of MERS (or no title at all) but also have the title of  
7 “Limited Signing Officer” for Executive, the Trustee. The public recordings  
8 were signed by employees with no executive authority to bind the company; if  
9 they even work for MERS at all (the state where the notary is administered and  
10 where the signature is made appears to be the state where the trustee for the sale  
11 is located).

12 11. In Arizona, a trustee shall disclose the names and addresses for which the  
13 grantee holds title and shall identify the trust or other agreement under which  
14 the grantee is acting. ARS §33-404(A). MERS and Executive, with GMAC’s  
15 cooperation and approval, misrepresented themselves as the true beneficiary  
16 and properly designated trustee. Defendants failed to disclose the true  
17 beneficiary at all (MERS was not a true beneficiary, and Bank of New York  
18 Trust Company, N.A. as successor to JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A.,<sup>15</sup> a trustee

---

19 <sup>15</sup> Only recently, GMAC has responded to plaintiffs’ counsel’s letters by now claiming, after  
20 pressed under the Truth in Lending provisions that require disclosure of the owner or master  
21 servicer of the loan, claiming that the “the loan is currently owned by: The Bank of New York  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

1 for a pass through trust with a tax status that does not allow it to own anything,  
2 is not a true beneficiary). In fact, no true beneficiary existed at the time of the  
3 sale, as the interest in the promissory note, arguably held by the investors in the  
4 mortgage backed securities, was destroyed by the parsing and tranching of the  
5 debt with other borrower's debts.  
6

7  
8 12. GMAC and MERS, acting by and through Executive, had reason to know that  
9 the Deed of Trust, Notice of Sale, and Substitution of Trustee contained false  
10 claims and recorded them or caused them to be recorded anyway in violation of  
11 ARS §33.320(A)(E).  
12

13 13. Through the conduct described in this Complaint, Defendants have attempted to  
14 collect on a debt to which they are not legally entitled as they are not in  
15 possession of the original Note or otherwise entitled to enforce the Note.<sup>16</sup>  
16  
17  
18  
19

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20 Trust Company, N.A. as successor to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. as Trustee." See Letter dated  
21 August 13, 2009. Of course, this letter further admonishes "the loan is currently being  
22 subserviced by GMAC Mortgage and all legal inquiries should be directed to the sub-servicer."  
23 Further, GMAC still fails to name the special purpose vehicle which filed SEC documents and  
24 actually issued the certificates to the investors who are the true holders of whatever remains of  
the note that was fundamentally changed by the Defendants' machinations.

25 <sup>16</sup> According to the 424b5 Prospectus Supplement filed with the SEC, the note was  
26 contemplated to be transferred to a Custodian who would hold it for investors. Only the  
27 defendants know if this actually occurred on the date specified or at all.  
28

14. Defendants, in taking the actions aforementioned, have violated provision of the Uniform Commercial Code as codified at A.R.S. §47-3101, *et. seq.*, by attempting to foreclose on the subject property without possession of the original Note properly endorsed to it or assigned to it, and without showing that they are holders of the note entitled to enforcement, and without showing that they are non-holders entitled to payment, as those terms are set forth in A.R.S. § 47-3301, *et seq.*

**COUNT TWO**  
**Injunctive Relief**  
**(As to GMAC, MERS, RFC)**

15. Plaintiffs incorporate each of the allegations set forth in the foregoing paragraphs by this reference as if fully set forth verbatim in this Count.

16. Plaintiffs are faced with the clear and present danger of losing their Subject Property due to threatened foreclosure action at a trustee's sale as alleged herein.

17. Neither Defendants GMAC nor MERS nor any purported assignee of MERS is the proper beneficiary under the Note and Deed of Trust .

18. Plaintiffs will suffer irreparable harm if Defendants are not enjoined from selling Plaintiffs' Subject Property at a foreclosure or trustee's sale, as Plaintiffs will lose their financial interest in the Subject Property, and Plaintiffs will have no adequate remedy at law because the Subject Property is unique.

1 19.Pursuant to A.R.S. §12-1801, *et. seq.*, this Court has the power to enjoin  
2 Defendants from conducting a Trustee's Sale on the subject property until this  
3 Court resolves the issues between the parties.  
4

5 20.Defendants, pending litigation, are threatening to conduct a Trustee's Sale on  
6 the subject property in violation of the rights of Plaintiffs. If such Trustee's  
7 Sale is permitted to occur, such action would render this Court's judgment  
8 ineffectual.  
9

10 21.Because Defendants are not entitled to enforce the underlying promissory Note  
11 described in the security instrument, Plaintiffs specifically seeks an injunction  
12 prohibiting Defendants from selling the subject property. Defendants have  
13 failed to demonstrate that they are proper parties to bring a non-judicial  
14 foreclosure, abusing the privilege of bringing a non-judicial foreclosure, and  
15 trampling Plaintiffs's due process rights by refusing to demonstrate through a  
16 credible chain of evidence (or any evidence at all) that they are the holders in  
17 due course of the Note, or that they are foreclosing as a party entitled to enforce  
18 the terms of the Note and the security instrument.  
19

20 22.As a result of the misconduct described in this Complaint, Plaintiffs is entitled  
21 to an injunction enjoining Defendants from conducting a Trustee's Sale on the  
22 subject property pending a final outcome in this litigation.  
23

24  
25  
26  
27  
28 **COUNT THREE**



**Breach of Contract**  
**As to Defendant GMAC**

23. Plaintiffs incorporate each of the allegations set forth in the foregoing paragraphs by this reference as if fully set forth verbatim in this Count.

24. Plaintiff signed a promissory note with parties Meritage Mortgage as the supposed “Lender” and MERS as the alleged “Beneficiary” in English on December 1, 2005. GMAC acquired the servicing rights under Plaintiffs’ promissory note by assignment on March 20, 2006. Securitization documents show that the loan was originated to fit into a pool that was being organized and formed prior to the origination. Securitization documents also contemplate that the note was transferred twice, once to the seller, and then to the depositor, and then placed in a trust.

25. The terms of the promissory note provide that Plaintiffs payments will be applied to pay down their Note.

26. GMAC and RFC concealed and hid their involvement and profit in the securitization of Plaintiffs’ notes.

27. GMAC and RFC profited by Plaintiffs’ note. The profit was greater the riskier Plaintiffs’ note was.

1 28. The true risks of foreclosure and negative amortization and adjustable interest  
2 rate were not disclosed to Plaintiffs. The true parties were not disclosed to  
3 Plaintiffs.  
4

5 29. The securitization fundamentally changed the nature of Plaintiffs' note and  
6 destroyed negotiability.  
7

8 30. The pooling of notes, including Plaintiffs', into a pool designed only to protect  
9 a "revenue stream" for investors destroyed negotiability and the individual  
10 character of his note. Later further division and securitization via collateralized  
11 debt obligations may have occurred.  
12

13 31. Plaintiffs' payments were not applied to their specific note as contracted. The  
14 securitization documents provided that notes could be substituted in and out of  
15 the pool and borrowers payments could be applied across the pool in certain  
16 instances.  
17  
18

19 32. Plaintiffs' note was no longer for a sum certain.  
20

21 33. The terms of Plaintiffs' contract were unconscionable.

22 34. Plaintiff did not understand English and the contracts, including the note, were  
23 only offered in English.  
24

25 35. The foregoing breaches were material and the Plaintiffs were damaged  
26 thereby.  
27

28 **COUNT FOUR**

**Breach of the Covenant of Good Faith and Fair Dealing**  
**(As to Defendants GMAC and RFC)**

36. Plaintiffs incorporate each of the allegations set forth in the foregoing paragraphs by this reference as if fully set forth verbatim in this Count.

37. GMAC and RFC were involved at the inception of Plaintiffs' loan, a fact that was not disclosed to Plaintiffs. Defendants fraudulently concealed the securitization of Plaintiffs' note. Defendants also failed to disclose the true parties to the transaction.

38. GMAC's and RFC's underwriting guidelines and securitization plan governed the transaction.

39. GMAC was assigned the sub-servicing rights for the note, simultaneously with securitization of the note. RFC was a transferee of the note as it made its way through a series of off record transfers, "true sales," and assignments.

40. GMAC and RFC failed to disclose their profits and side deals made with the securitization of Plaintiffs' note.

41. Plaintiffs' note was designed to fail by GMAC and RFC.

42. A duty of good faith and fair dealing is implied in every contract in Arizona. Defendants GMAC and RFC breached this duty by the existence of secret parties, profits, and schemes, within the originating of Plaintiffs' loan.

**COUNT FIVE**  
**Violation of the Truth in Lending Act**  
**15 U.S.C. §1601, et seq. and Regulation Z, 12 C.F.R. §201, et seq.**  
**(As to Defendants GMAC and any Assignees)**

43. Plaintiffs incorporate each of the allegations set forth in the foregoing paragraphs by this reference as if fully set forth verbatim in this Count.

44. As defined in 15 U.S.C. .A. §1602 and 12 C.F.R. §226.2, the transaction between Plaintiffs and Meritage (at GMAC's direction) was a "credit sale."

45. As defined in 15 U.S.C. §1602, Plaintiffs were each a "consumer," and Meritage, working as an agent of GMAC, in pursuit of loans for GMAC's securitization scheme, with a plan to immediately sell the note and assign the servicing to GMAC was a "creditor." GMAC, as designated assignee and affiliate sponsor of the securitization was also a "creditor."

46. According to plan, Meritage assigned the servicing rights to GMAC a few short months after the closing. In addition, Meritage sold the note to the securitization sponsor/seller.

47. Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1638(b)(1) and 12 C.F.R. §226.17, Meritage (for GMAC) was required to make certain specified disclosures to Plaintiffs before the consummation of the credit transaction.

48. Pursuant to 12 C.F.R. §226.23, Meritage (for GMAC) was required to furnish each individual holding an interest in the subject property with two (2) completed copies of the Right to Cancel notice.

1 49. Meritage violated 15 U.S.C. §1638 by improperly and/or inadequately  
2 disclosing one or more of the following items to Plaintiffs:

- 3 a. The annual percentage rate
- 4 b. The finance charge;
- 5 c. The amount financed;
- 6 d. The total number of payments;
- 7 e. The payment schedule;
- 8 f. Whether the loan has a demand feature;
- 9 g. Whether the loan has a variable rate feature, and if so, to make disclosure  
10 about the variable rate feature;
- 11 h. Whether the borrower may be entitled to a refund of a portion of the  
12 finance charges;
- 13 i. Whether the loan is subject to a prepayment penalty, and, if so, to make  
14 disclosure about the prepayment penalty terms.

15 50. Fees were charged to Plaintiffs by Meritage ,under the guidance of GMAC and  
16 RFC's accepted Underwriting Principles, without being properly disclosed  
17 pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1605 and Regulation Z of Section 226.4.

18 51. With regard to the loan obtained by Plaintiffs, Meritage applied the annual  
19 percentage rate based on improperly calculated and disclosed amounts and in  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

1 direct violation of 15 U.S.C. §1601, *et seq.* and Regulation Z Sections 226.18(c)  
2 , 18(d), and 22.

3  
4 52. After learning within one year from the date of this lawsuit that there were  
5 “investors” determining the criteria by which their loan could be modified,  
6 Plaintiffs repeatedly asked for information regarding the true holder of the note.  
7 They were entitled to this information under the Truth in Lending Act which  
8 provides, “Upon written request by the obligor, the servicer shall provide the  
9 obligor, to the best knowledge of the servicer, with the name, address, and  
10 telephone number of the owner of the obligation or the master servicer of the  
11 obligation.” USC §1641(f)(2). Defendant GMAC repeatedly and wrongfully  
12 refused to provide this basic information to Plaintiffs.  
13  
14  
15

16 53. As a result of Defendant’s violations as set forth herein, Plaintiffs is entitled to  
17 damages as set forth below.  
18

19 54. Defendant GMAC, through its agents and affiliates, fraudulently  
20 misrepresented and concealed the true facts related to the items subject to  
21 disclosure to Plaintiffs, and Plaintiffs did not discover the Defendant’s failure to  
22 make such disclosures pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1638 until one (1) year within the  
23 filing of this Complaint.  
24  
25  
26

27 **COUNT SIX**  
28 **(Violation of RESPA, 12 U.S.C. §2601, *et seq.*)**  
**(As to Defendants GMAC)**

1 55. Plaintiffs incorporate each of the allegations set forth in the foregoing  
2 paragraphs by this reference as if fully set forth verbatim in this Count.

3  
4 56. Defendant GMAC is a “mortgage lender” with deposits or accounts insured  
5 by a federal agency and/or a lender that is regulated by the federal government,  
6 and therefore is subject to the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act  
7 (“RESPA”), 12 U.S.C. §2601, *et seq.*  
8

9  
10 57. The loan to Plaintiffs described herein is a federally related mortgage loan  
11 subject to 12 U.S.C. §2601, *et seq.*  
12

13 58. Plaintiffs are consumers and members of the class of consumers subject to  
14 protection under 12 U.S.C. §2601, *et seq.*  
15

16 59. Pursuant to 12 U.S.C. §2601, *et seq.*, Meritage was required to provide  
17 Plaintiffs with a uniform settlement statement, which must clearly and  
18 conspicuously itemize all charges imposed upon the borrower and all charges  
19 imposed upon the seller in connection with the closing of the loan.  
20

21 60. Pursuant to 12 U.S.C. §2604, Meritage was also required to provide Plaintiffs  
22 with a special information booklet, which was to contain in “clear and concise  
23 language” a description and/or explanation of the following:  
24

- 25 a. Each cost associated with a real estate settlement;  
26  
27 b. The uniform settlement form required by RESPA (with a sample copy of  
28 the form);

- c. The nature and purpose of escrow accounts used in connection with real estate transactions;
- d. The choices available to residential real estate purchasers when they require necessary services incident to a real estate transaction;
- e. Unfair practices and unreasonable or unnecessary charges that a prospective purchaser should avoid in connection with a real estate settlement.

61. Pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 2604, Meritage was required to include a “good faith estimate of the amount or range of charges” for settlement services with the special information booklet described above.

62. Pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 2604, Meritage was required to provide Plaintiffs a good faith estimate and the special information booklet no later than three (3) business days after Meritage received the loan application described herein.

63. Meritage was required to inform Plaintiffs at the time of application, whether the servicing of the loan could be assigned, sold or transferred during the life of the loan.

64. Meritage and GMAC were required to notify Plaintiffs of the assignment, sale, or transfer of the loan in writing at least fifteen (15) days before the event or at the time of settlement.



1 65. Pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 2607(a), Meritage and GMAC were prohibited from  
2 paying any “fee, kickback, or thing of value” to any person as part of the real  
3 estate settlement service involving the loan described herein.  
4

5 66. Meritage and GMAC were required to disclose any “controlled business  
6 arrangements” as defined in 12 U.S.C. §2602 to Plaintiffs.  
7

8 67. Meritage and GMAC violated RESPA by failing to provide Plaintiffs with the  
9 required disclosures described above within the required time periods provided  
10 for by the Act. Meritage and GMAC through its agents and affiliates provided  
11 Plaintiffs with inaccurate settlement statements and good faith estimates prior to  
12 the closing of the transaction.  
13  
14

15 68. Meritage and GMAC violated RESPA by failing to disclose “controlled  
16 business arrangements” to Plaintiffs.  
17

18 69. Meritage and GMAC violated RESPA by charging Plaintiffs unreasonably  
19 high fees for real estate settlement services.  
20

21 70. Meritage and GMAC fraudulently misrepresented and concealed from Plaintiffs  
22 the true facts related to the items subject to disclosure, and Plaintiffs did not  
23 discover Defendant’s failure to make required disclosures pursuant to 12 U.S.C.  
24 §§ 2601 and 2604 within one (1) year of filing this Complaint.  
25  
26  
27  
28

71. Based on Defendant's violations as described herein, Plaintiffs is entitled to damages under 12 U.S.C. §§ 2607 and 2608, and to claim damages for emotional distress according to proof.

72. Based on Defendant's violations as described herein, Defendants are liable to Plaintiffs in an amount equal to three (3) times the amount of charges paid by Plaintiffs for "settlement services."

### **COUNT SEVEN**

#### **(Violation of the Arizona Consumer Fraud Act, A.R.S. §§44-1521, et seq.) (As to Defendants GMAC, RFC, and MERS)**

73. Plaintiffs incorporate each of the allegations set forth in the foregoing paragraphs by this reference as if fully set forth verbatim in this Count.

74. A.R.S. § 44-1522 prohibits the use of any "deceptive act or practice" in connection with real estate transactions.

75. A.R.S. § 44-1522(B) permits interpretations of 15 U.S.C. §§ 44, 52, and 55(a)(a), the Federal Trade Commission Act, to be used as a guide in interpreting the term "deceptive." Interpretations of the term include representations that have a "tendency and capacity" to convey misleading impressions to consumers even though interpretations that would not be misleading are also possible. *Chrysler Corp. v. FTC*, 561 F.2d 357, 363 (D.C.

1 Cir. 1977). In evaluating the representations, the test is whether the least  
2 sophisticated individual would be misled. *Exposition Press, Inc. v. FTC*, 295  
3 F.2d 869 (2d Cir. 1961), *cert. denied*, 370 U.S. 917 (1962).  
4

5 76. GMAC, RFC, MERS and their agents used deception, false promises, and  
6 misrepresentations regarding the terms of the loan offered to Plaintiffs by  
7 misrepresenting, concealing, or omitting the terms of the loan, including, but  
8 not limited to, the true cost of the loan, the true parties to the loan, the interest  
9 rate, the payments to be made under the loan, Plaintiffs' ability to qualify for  
10 the loan, and Plaintiffs' ability to refinance the loan in the future. Such facts  
11 were material in that Defendant knew, or should have known, that Plaintiffs  
12 would rely upon Defendant's representations in entering into the loan as alleged  
13 herein.  
14  
15  
16  
17

18 77. Meritage, at GMAC's and RFC's behest, acted as a "pretender lender" in  
19 loaning the investors' money to Plaintiffs without making a commercially  
20 reasonable determination of Plaintiffs' ability to repay the loan.  
21

22 78. GMAC knew, or should have known, that Plaintiffs would be incapable of  
23 making loan payments as required by the terms of the loan based upon  
24 Plaintiffs' income.  
25

26 79. GMAC omitted and concealed the magnitude of Plaintiffs' risk of losing the  
27 home.  
28

1 80. GMAC, RFC and MERS transferred the note into the MERS system to provide  
2 a gap in the chain of title on the public records, to better facilitate their  
3 securitization transaction and to conceal the true parties, profits, and transaction  
4 from the plaintiffs and the public.  
5

6 81. Plaintiffs relied upon Meritage's representations (as governed by GMAC's  
7 underwriting criteria) concerning the terms of the loan and their ability to repay  
8 the loan when entering the loan agreement.  
9

10 82. Defendants' deceptive practices misled Plaintiffs into believing that they would  
11 be able to refinance the loan  
12

13 83. Plaintiffs learned of Defendants' violations of A.R.S. §4-1522 within one (1)  
14 year of filing this complaint.  
15

16 84. As a proximate result of the violations stated above, Defendants are liable to  
17 Plaintiffs for statutory damages according to the Arizona Consumer Fraud Act,  
18 for actual damages (including emotional distress) according to proof, and  
19 attorney's fees and costs.  
20

21 85. Moreover, the conduct of Defendant in violation of the Arizona Consumer  
22 Fraud Act was so contemptible and egregious that Plaintiffs is entitled to  
23 punitive damages in an amount appropriate to punish Defendant and deter  
24 others from engaging in similar conduct.  
25  
26  
27  
28

**COUNT EIGHT**  
**(Conspiracy to Commit Fraud Related to MERS System)**  
**(As to Defendants MERS, GMAC, RFC)**

86. Plaintiffs incorporate each of the allegations set forth in the foregoing paragraphs by this reference as if fully set forth verbatim in this Count.

87. Defendants MERS, GMAC, and RFC (hereinafter in this Count referred to as “Defendant Conspirators”), and each of them, did knowingly and willfully conspire and agree among themselves to engage in a conspiracy to promote, encourage, facilitate, and actively engage in fraudulent and predatory lending practices perpetrated on Plaintiffs as alleged herein as part of the business policies and practices of each of the Defendant Conspirators in the MERS system.

88. Upon information and belief, Defendant Conspirators, and each of them, are or have been creators, originators and controlling shareholders in MERS and/or members of the MERS system, and have participated in the design and coordination of the MERS system.

89. Upon information and belief, Defendant Conspirators have conspired among themselves and with other unknown parties to:

- a. Develop a system of earning profits from the origination and securitization of residential loans without regard to the rights of

- 1 Plaintiffs, and other similarly situated, by engaging in predatory and  
2 deceptive residential lending practices as alleged in this complaint above;  
3  
4 b. In furtherance of the system referred to immediately above, Defendant  
5 Conspirators intentionally created, managed, operated, and controlled  
6 Defendant MERS for the specific purpose of MERS being designated as  
7 a sham “beneficiary” in the original deeds of trust securing those loans,  
8 including the loan made to Plaintiffs and other similarly situated  
9 individuals;  
10  
11  
12 c. Defendant Conspirators, and each and every one of them, intentionally  
13 created, managed, operated and controlled the MERS system with the  
14 unlawful intent and for the unlawful purpose of making it difficult or  
15 impossible for Plaintiffs and other victims of such industry-wide policies  
16 and practices to identify and hold responsible the persons and/or entities  
17 responsible for the unlawful actions of GMAC, MERS, RFC, and their  
18 co-conspirators;  
19  
20  
21

22 90. Defendant Conspirators, through creation of the MERS system alleged herein,  
23 adopted and implemented a system of residential lending underwriting  
24 guidelines for use in Arizona which was designed to, and did, generate  
25 unprecedented profits for Defendant Conspirators and their co-conspirators,  
26 corporate officers and directors, at the expense of Plaintiffs and other similarly  
27  
28

1 situated persons that Defendant Conspirators fraudulently induced into taking  
2 out residential loans on which Defendant Conspirators and their co-conspirators  
3 knew that Plaintiffs and others like them would likely default (in fact, in many  
4 cases, the Defendant Conspirators and other investors, were paid more if the  
5 loans defaulted), and which would likely result in foreclosure. Defendant  
6 Conspirators issued these loans with reckless disregard and with intentional  
7 indifference of the likelihood of such foreclosure.  
8  
9

10  
11 91.The MERS system was created to unlawfully hide and insulate predatory loan  
12 brokers and originators from accountability and liability by informing all  
13 lenders who originated loans naming MERS as the beneficiary of the following:  
14

15 92.MERS would never own or acquire any actual beneficial interest in any loan in  
16 which it was named as beneficiary under the deed of trust.  
17

18 93.MERS could be named as beneficiary for purposes of public notice and notice  
19 to the borrower and would act in that capacity if so designated by the lender  
20 who originated the loan.  
21

22 94.Upon information and belief, Defendant Conspirators and their co-conspirators'  
23 intent and purpose in the creation, management, operation and control of MERS  
24 was, without limitation, to make it impossible for anyone, other than Defendant  
25 Conspirators who created and controlled MERS, to identify the actual beneficial  
26 owner of any loan or the property used as collateral to secure the loan until such  
27  
28

1 time, if any, that a foreclosure action was initiated. As a result, the identity of  
2 the actual beneficial owner was intentionally hidden from Plaintiffs and other  
3 similarly situated individuals.  
4

5 95.The creation of the MERS system by the Defendant Conspirators, was  
6 dependent on fraudulent and deceptive practices that included, but were not  
7 limited to, making loans to consumers such as Plaintiffs in violation of the  
8 Truth in Lending Act, the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act, and created a  
9 system to unlawfully deprive Plaintiffs of Plaintiffs' interest in their home.  
10  
11

12 96.As a result of the actions of Defendant Conspirators as described herein,  
13 Plaintiffs has suffered injuries which include mental anguish, emotional  
14 distress, embarrassment, humiliation, loss of reputation, and a decreased credit  
15 rating that has, and will, impair Plaintiffs' ability to obtain credit at favorable  
16 terms, the loss or anticipated loss of Plaintiffs' home, and other financial losses  
17 according to proof. Plaintiffs have incurred attorneys' fees and costs in this  
18 matter.  
19  
20  
21

22 97.Defendant Conspirators' actions were wanton, willful and reckless, and justify  
23 an award of punitive damages against Defendant Conspirators, and each of  
24 them.  
25  
26  
27  
28

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**



1 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray that:

- 2 A. This Court declare that Defendants are not entitled to enforce the underlying  
3 promissory  
4 Note described in the security instrument;
- 5 B. This court declare that Defendants have no legal claim to title on the subject  
6 property;
- 7 C. This court enjoin Defendants from conducting a Trustee's Sale on the  
8 subject property;
- 9 D. Plaintiffs be awarded monetary damages against Defendants, jointly and  
10 severally;
- 11 E. Plaintiffs be awarded statutory damages for Unfair Debt Collection practices  
12 under the federal and Arizona statutes;
- 13 F. Attorneys fees be awarded Plaintiffs as may be permitted by law;
- 14 G. Plaintiffs be awarded treble damages as permitted by law;
- 15 H. That prejudgment interest be awarded Plaintiffs as permitted by law; and
- 16 I. For such other and further equitable relief, declaratory relief and legal  
17 damages as may be permitted by law and as the court may consider just and  
18 proper.  
19  
20

21  
22 **RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED** this 1<sup>st</sup> day of September 2009.

23 **The Law Offices of Beth K. Findsen, PLLC**

24 By:           /s/ Beth K. Findsen          

25 Beth K. Findsen

26 7279 East Adobe Drive, Suite 120

27 Scottsdale, Arizona 85255

28 Attorney for Plaintiffs Edel Molina and Maria  
Hernandez

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5  
6 I hereby certify that on September 1, 2009, I electronically transmitted the  
7 attached document to the Clerk' office using the CM/ECF System for filing and  
8 transmittal of a Notice of Electronic Filing to Following CM/ECF registrants:  
9

10 By: s/ Zeke Contreras  
11 Zeke Contreras, Legal Assistant  
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